



**Career Cluster**  
 At this level, students gain cluster level knowledge and skills in secondary, postsecondary, or adult bridge programs.

**Career Pathways**  
 At this level, students gain pathway level knowledge and skills and stackable credentials.

**Career and Program Options**  
 At this level, students follow a sequence of courses to certificates and degrees in a career field.

Family and Consumer Sciences

Health Sciences Technology

Arts and

Business, Marketing, and Computer Education

**Illinois Career Cluster Model**

- 1 Essential Knowledge & Skills
- 2 CTE Areas: Secondary
- 3 Career Cluster
- 4 Career Pathways
- 5 Career and Program Options

■ AVAILABLE IN THE ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM    ■ NOT CURRENTLY AVAILABLE IN THE ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

## How to Read the Career Cluster Fan

This brochure depicts the **Illinois career cluster graphic**, commonly called a “fan”, which shows the relationship between a secondary career and technical education (CTE) area in Illinois, a career cluster, associated career pathways, and a sample of career and program options within each pathway. **Career exploration and development** is integrated throughout all levels of the Illinois’ Career Cluster model.

The fan also shows entry points for adults, including **bridge programs** that integrate occupational cluster level knowledge and skills into adult education and developmental education course content. Bridge programs are designed to prepare students to transition to postsecondary credit instruction in a career pathway. The fan also illustrates the transition process by which students gain access to sequences of courses, taken at multiple levels that lead to certificate and degree attainment and employment.

Sections of the fan blur into one another to indicate the importance of **student transition** without difficulty from the cluster to the pathway, to the career option or Programs of Study level. Secondary students can access postsecondary level coursework through dual credit. Also noteworthy, the arrow labeled **Programs of Study** extends beyond the border of the fan, denoting that education and career development continue throughout an individual’s lifespan. The Programs of Study arrow also illustrates that individuals can earn **education credentials** beyond the associate and baccalaureate degree levels.

Note that the career pathways and career and program options shown in faded text are not currently available in the Illinois Community College System (ICCS). Where a career and program option is missing, none has been developed as of yet in the ICCS.

## For more information about the Illinois Career Cluster Model go to:

- Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) Directory of Programs:  
<http://iccbdsrv.iccb.org/clusters/home.cfm>
- Illinois Pathways Initiative:  
[http://www.illinoisworknet.com/vos\\_portal/Stem/en/Home/](http://www.illinoisworknet.com/vos_portal/Stem/en/Home/)
- Illinois’ Program of Study website:  
<http://www.ilprogramsofstudy.org>
- Illinois State Board of Education:  
[http://ocrl.illinois.edu/projects/shifting\\_gears](http://ocrl.illinois.edu/projects/shifting_gears)
- Office of Community College Research and Leadership (OCCRL) Programs of Study website:  
<http://ocrl.illinois.edu/projects/pos>
- OCCRL Pathways to Results website:  
<http://ocrl.illinois.edu/projects/pathways>
- Pathways Resource Center:  
<http://pathways.illinois.edu>

This publication was prepared pursuant to a grant from the Illinois State Board of Education and was funded 100% through the federal Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006.

Illinois State Board of Education  
100 North First Street  
Springfield, IL 62777-0001  
[www.isbe.net](http://www.isbe.net)

Chair, Gery J. Chico  
Superintendent, Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.

**ISBE contact:**  
Dora Welker  
Illinois State Board of  
Education  
100 N. 1st St.  
Springfield, IL 62777-0001  
[dwelker@isbe.net](mailto:dwelker@isbe.net)  
<http://www.isbe.net>

**OCCRL contact:**  
Donald G. Hackmann  
Office of Community College  
Research and Leadership  
University of Illinois  
51 Gerty Drive, 129 CRC  
Champaign, IL 61820  
[ocrl@illinois.edu](mailto:ocrl@illinois.edu)  
<http://ocrl.illinois.edu>

# AGRICULTURE, FOOD, & NATURAL RESOURCES

## ILLINOIS CAREER CLUSTER MODEL



Illinois State Board of Education  
Illinois Community College Board